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New Electric Vehicle Roadmap promises holistic look at Connecticut's infrastructure and access needs

Coalition of clean energy advocates, businesses, labor, and environmental justice groups applaud release of EV Roadmap to meet climate targets, caution strong rebates critical to success

NEW HAVEN, CONN. – The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection released a draft of Connecticut's first [Electric Vehicle Roadmap](#) on Friday.

The Electric Vehicle Roadmap is one of many recommendations from Connecticut's Comprehensive Energy Strategy. The current Strategy, issued in February 2018, directed DEEP to develop a multifaceted plan that identifies policies, programs, and strategies that Connecticut should pursue to optimize deployment of electric vehicles and associated infrastructure. Information about the Roadmap process is available [on DEEP's website](#).

The Connecticut Electric Vehicle Coalition, a diverse group of clean energy advocates and business groups, organized labor, and environmental justice groups, is focused on electric vehicle policies and creating a more strategic and ambitious strategy on zero emission vehicle deployment. These strategies will help tackle climate change, improve the state's public health and air quality, and create economic development opportunities.

In an effort to meet climate goals by limiting pollution from transportation and investing in more resilient transportation infrastructure, the Coalition asked DEEP to:

- Identify targets for vehicle electrification based on the State's climate goals, focusing on the State's 2030 goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions economy-wide 45 percent below 2001 levels.
- Model the associated charging needs for a realistic range of assumptions regarding future vehicle capabilities.
- Identify policies and strategies that will maximize the benefits of the new electric load.

The Coalition is pleased by the comprehensive approach of the Roadmap, with to-do items for the legislature, DEEP, the Public Utility Regulatory Authority, the Department of Codes and Standards; by the highlighting of the state fleet and public infrastructure as priorities; and by the plan's focus on equity for low- and middle-income residents and environmental justice communities.

At the same time, the Coalition cautions that follow-through and strong rebates to make EV purchase costs comparable to conventional vehicles will be essential to the plan's success. Rebates under the state's CHEAPR program were just reduced to levels that will not support this goal.

Public comments will be accepted on the plan until November 11, and a final Roadmap is expected in early December.

What some CT Electric Vehicle Coalition members are saying:

Charles Rothenberger, climate and energy attorney at Connecticut Fund for the Environment/Save the Sound:

“The only way Connecticut will meet climate mandates and clean up our air is to end our addiction to fossil fuels. The EV Roadmap will accelerate the shift to electric vehicles and buses, and ensure sufficient charging infrastructure and grid integration strategies that benefit all Connecticut residents. An important next step for realizing these infrastructure improvements will be adjusting state building codes to make sure new residential and commercial building parking is set up to enable people to charge their cars where they live and work. We look forward to continuing to work with state agencies and legislators to make that happen.”

Emily Lewis, director for climate and energy analysis center at Acadia Center:

“The state needs to transform its transportation system to make it cleaner, safer, equitable, and reliable, and the draft EV Roadmap provides some policy proposals to address the barriers to this change. Notably, the document highlights the importance of consumer rebates in driving EV adoption, so it is disappointing to see the state reduced the available EV rebate amounts following release of the draft. Acadia Center looks forward to working with DEEP to ensure the future rebate program incentivizes consumer adoption of EVs at the rate needed to meet the state’s climate requirements.”

Kevin Miller, director of public policy for ChargePoint:

“ChargePoint welcomes the draft EV Roadmap as a critical step in supporting transportation electrification in Connecticut. The beneficial electrification of the transportation sector will help meet statewide energy and environmental goals and ensure that the State has the world-class EV charging network it deserves. We look forward to working with PURA, DEEP, DAS, and other stakeholders to make it easier for Connecticut drivers and riders to go electric.”

Lori Brown, executive director of the Connecticut League of Conservation Voters:

“Electric vehicles and buses are key to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and fighting climate change, and the EV Roadmap paves the way for their success. We at CTLCV are thrilled to see the focus on equity in the Roadmap, as any plan to move the dial on electric vehicles must first address communities disproportionately impacted by air pollution from the transportation sector. The Roadmap's focus on improving charging infrastructure and increasing accessibility for lower-income and communities of color is key to ensuring a just transition from fossil fuels.”

Samantha Dynowski, state director for Sierra Club Connecticut:

“DEEP's draft EV Roadmap is a welcome development towards achieving Connecticut's greenhouse gas reduction targets that places a much needed emphasis on equity. Now is the time for DEEP to inform the EV Roadmap with community input by prioritizing outreach in communities that lack adequate transportation and disproportionately suffer from transportation pollution.”

The Roadmap release comes in conjunction with two other initiatives for emissions reductions. The Transportation and Climate Initiative, which the Connecticut Electric Vehicle Coalition has been supporting, is a regional proposal from Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states to design a new regional low-carbon transportation policy proposal. In addition, Governor Lamont recently unveiled a holistic, multi-modal, 10-year transportation infrastructure master plan (including roads, bikes, rail, ports, and airports) to address critical transportation infrastructure issues and modernize Connecticut's transportation systems. The state will launch a new website for that effort at www.ct2030.com. Governor Lamont also declared September to be Electric Vehicle Month in Connecticut, recognizing the importance of clean transportation to the state's future.

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